

1 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

2 In one aspect, the invention encompasses a semiconductor
3 processing method. A layer of material is formed over a semiconductive
4 wafer substrate. Some portions of the layer are exposed to energy
5 while other portions are not exposed. The exposure to energy alters
6 physical properties of the exposed portions relative to the unexposed
7 portions. After the portions are exposed, the exposed and unexposed
8 portions of the layer are subjected to common conditions. The common
9 conditions are effective to remove the material and comprise a rate of
10 removal that is influenced by the altered physical properties of the
11 layer. The common conditions remove either the exposed or unexposed
12 portions faster than the other of the exposed and unexposed portions.
13 After the selective removal of the exposed or unexposed portions, and
14 while the other of the exposed and unexposed portions remains over the
15 substrate, the wafer is cut into separated die. In another aspect, the
16 invention encompasses another semiconductor processing method. A
17 layer of $(CH_3)_ySi(OH)_{4-y}$ is formed over a substrate. Some portions of
18 the layer are exposed to ultraviolet light while other portions are not
19 exposed. The exposure to ultraviolet light converts the exposed portions
20 to $(CH_3)_xSiO_{2-x}$. After the exposure to ultraviolet light, the exposed and
21 unexposed portions of the layer are subjected to hydrofluoric acid to
22 selectively remove the $(CH_3)_ySi(OH)_{4-y}$ of the unexposed portions relative
23 to the $(CH_3)_xSiO_{2-x}$ of the exposed portions.